

SAMPLE ACTIVITY

Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing

This activity utilizes the *Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing* to join together in praying that all who have been wounded by participation in abortion may find forgiveness, peace, and healing in God's tender mercy. By the age of 45, as many as 1 in 3 women have had an abortion, and a similar number of men and family members have been involved. Too often, those who have been involved in abortion suffer alone in silence for years.

This prayer service can be combined with a regularly scheduled parish event, such as a regular Holy Hour, or planned as a supplemental activity. A priest or deacon will need to lead the prayer service.

Materials

- ◆ Copies of the [Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing](#)

Directions

(See this action guide's sample timeline for a general outline for completing the following tasks.)

1. Contact your pastor to ask if your parish can host a Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing sometime near the Sunday of Divine Mercy.
2. After the event has been approved and a date and time have been determined, begin advertising the prayer service. Include announcements in your bulletin and email newsletters and share on your website and social media accounts.
3. Recruit volunteers to help you host the prayer service. You may want to have lectors, musicians to offer an opening hymn, and greeters to hand out programs. Ask the priest or deacon celebrating the prayer service if you can assist them in any way and if they have any requests to ask of the volunteers.
4. Make copies of the program. Extend individual, personal invitations to parishioners. A personal invitation is often the most effective way to encourage attendance.
5. Before the event begins, pray with all who are involved in hosting it that the prayer service will open hearts to seek God's mercy. Pray for the healing of all those who have been wounded by abortion. Entrust the event to the Holy Spirit and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
6. Consider making promotional materials for Project Rachel Ministry (or other name of your diocesan abortion healing ministry) available in discreet locations around the parish for those who may want to seek help after abortion. You might also consider putting the ministry's contact information on the back of the program.

One Step Further

Your parish may also want to celebrate this great Feast of Mercy and the conclusion of the Octave of Easter by hosting a [Eucharistic Holy Hour for the Sunday of Divine Mercy](#). A template is available online and includes prayers, options of readings, and intercessions.

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